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the resources of temperate forests show signs of exhaustion. The defects of tropical forest for a timber industry have been explained; it is not clear why no interest has been shown in a pulping industry based on tropical trees most of which have the advantage of relatively quick natural replacement. Pulping of tropical woods may yet solve the world paper shortage, especially as woody or fibrous tropical plants might be cropped for pulping instead of depending on predatory deforestation as is the case in the pulping industries of temperate areas today.

The forests, however, supply the basic domestic fuel of the region. Apart from westernised suburbs of the town, charcoal and wood are the normal means of cooking, in which respect the domestic life continues today much as it did two or three centuries ago. Wealthier residences may use electricity which is mostly steam-generated from imported coals, but domestic coal-gas is uncommon. Domestic heating, of course, is a question which does not arise in these climates. For their illuminants the bulk of the people turn to their trees, to coconut oil, second to which is paraffin oil from within the region. Urban areas are electrically lit.

From Commodity Production to Local Processing

Because the production of primary agricultural commodities like rubber, copra, medicinal plants, and tapioca, all the basis of industrial processes elsewhere, has been the function of Southeast Asia territories over the first third of this century, culminating in an immediate prewar export valued at nearly $1,000 million per annum, processing and manufacturing of these commodities may cease to be done overseas and become the basis of industrialisation within Southeast Asia to make use of local power resources and of the margin of time available among rural populations. A tendency in this direction was very evident in Java where skill and incentive were present; rubber goods, textile printing, preparation of medicines, confectionary and refining essential oils had grown to significant proportions by 1941 and the enforced isolation of the war years should have intensified them, though a resumption of normal trading relations will oblige these industries to so organise that they meet the rival processed goods of zones as varied as India, Europe and the Far East. The influence of India as a source of manufactured goods was evident, particularly in textiles, before the war and could become even more prominent after India's